



The Urban District of Penrith

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

For the year 1948

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PENRITH :

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1949.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
PENRITH,
30th May, 1949.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PENRITH.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. JOHNSON, AND GENTLEMEN :

It is with pleasure that I submit my Thirteenth Annual Report on the health of the town.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the instructions contained in Circular 3/49 of the Ministry of Health dated 17th January, 1949, and on the lines indicated in Circular 170/47 dated 31st December, 1947.

The population of the Urban Area is estimated by the Registrar-General to be 10,500 which is an increase of 770 on 1947.

There are a few points of interest in the vital statistics. The birth rate at 19.23 remains high whereas this rate for England and Wales shows a decline on 1947.

Both the death rate and the infantile mortality rate have declined sharply on the corresponding rates for the year 1947 and reflect favourably on the health of the town. It was gratifying to observe that for the third year in succession there were no maternal deaths or deaths from puerperal causes, and in this connection Penrith is fortunate in having a first class County Maternity Home.

Among causes of death as given by the Registrar-General, heart diseases again head the list with 42 deaths, but perhaps the least favourable factor in the statistics is the increase in cancer deaths at 26 as compared with 20 in 1947, and the average age of death from this cause was 65 years. This disease constitutes perhaps the most urgent problem before the medical profession today and despite years of research remains a baffling puzzle.

The year 1948 began with the tail end of a Measles epidemic which had started in November 1947, and unfortunately caused the death of an infant aged 7 months.

Whooping Cough was more prevalent than in any year since 1939 when it became compulsorily notifiable.

On 5th July, 1948, the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into force and with it the repeal of the Vaccination Acts. It is to be hoped that the public will not neglect to have their children vaccinated, particularly in view of the speed of modern travel facilities and the possibility of the spread of such a deadly disease as Smallpox.

The town's water supply from Hayeswater remains "pure and wholesome" quoting the analyst's report on 1st November 1948, but the increasing consumption of water owing to the erection of new houses and an expanding population gives rise to some anxiety and it is hoped that the projected County scheme at Mosedale in the Penrith Rural Area will materialise in the fairly near future.

In conclusion my thanks are due to the members of the Sanitary and Housing Committees and to my colleagues on the staff.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

F. W. GAVIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE AREA.

Area of the District (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,586
Number of Inhabited Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,939
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£65,799
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£267 0s. 11d.
Registrar-General's estimate of the population	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,500
Live Births					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	94	89	183
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	8	11	19
							<hr/> 202 <hr/>
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	..	..	..	..	..	..	19.23
Birth rate for England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	17.9
Still Births					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	1	.. —	1
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	.. —	1
Rate per 1,000 (total births, live and still)	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.8
Deaths					Male	Female	Total
					69	62	131
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.47
Death Rate for England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.8
Deaths from Puerperal causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Maternal Mortality rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year ;							
All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	24.75
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	24.75
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Infantile death rate for England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	34.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under two years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

VITAL STATISTICS

I am indebted to Dr. Kenneth Fraser, County Medical Officer of Health for the following statistics, viz, :—

	Birth rate	Crude Death rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
Administrative County of Cumberland	19.4	11.6	37.00
Urban Districts of Cum- berland (including Boroughs of Working- and Whitehaven ..	19.2	11.7	36.00
Rural Districts of Cumberland	19.5	11.6	37.00
Urban District of Penrith ..	19.23	12.47	24.75
England and Wales ..	17.9	10.8	34.00

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1948.

Five deaths of infants under one year of age occurred in 1948, which is two less than in the year 1947. The details are as follows :

- (1) Male died 7 months old from Acute Gastritis and Measles at home.
- (2) Female died 1 month old from Broncho-Pneumonia at Carleton Camp.
- (3) Male died less than 1 hour old from Asphxia Neonatorum at County Maternity Home, Penrith.
- (4) Male died 2 days old from Congenital Asthenia at County Maternity Home, Penrith.
- (5) Female died 5 months old from Congenital Heart Disease at home.

Infantile Mortality rate for 1948	24.75
Rate for England and Wales	34.00

This is the lowest infantile death rate since 1943 when the lowest rate occurred in the records and was 9.85. In the year 1928 the second lowest rate was recorded, viz 13.51.

BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1948. PROVISIONAL FIGURES BASED ON QUARTERLY RETURNS.

	England and Wales	126 C.B's. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Admin. County
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Births				
Live Births	17.9 (a)	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still Births	0.42 (a)	0.52	0.43	0.39
Deaths				
All Causes	10.8 (a)	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Tuberculosis	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Influenza	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
Notifications (Corrected)				
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet fever	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Smallpox	—	—	—	—

BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1948. PROVISIONAL FIGURES BASED ON QUARTERLY RETURNS.

	England and Wales	126 C.B's. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Admin. County
Measles	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
Deaths				
All cases under 1 year of age	34 (b)	39	32	31
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4
	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births			
Notifications (Corrected)				
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	6.89	8.90	4.71	7.34 (c)

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
140 Abortion with Sepsis	0.11	9
141 Abortion without Sepsis	0.05	4
147 Puerperal infections	0.13	
142-146, 148-150 Other maternal causes	0.73	

- (a) Rates per 1,000 total population.
 (c) In London Puerperal fever alone was 0.61.
 (b) Per 1,000 related births.

WATER SUPPLY.

The town's water supply is not liable to have any plumbo-solvent action and the gathering ground is regularly inspected by the Water Engineer to prevent possible contamination from dead sheep, etc. Notice boards at Hayes-water warn the public against fouling the lake and prohibit bathing therein.

2,936 dwelling houses are supplied and a population of 9,900 is served by water mains and 600 by stand pipes.

It is to be noted that there are only 3 dwelling houses and 2 farms not supplied from public water sources.

The following is the analyst's report on a sample of water taken from a tap in Carleton Village at 9-20 a.m. on 11th October, 1948.

Bacteriology.

Agar plate count..	..	0.1 ml.	1 ml.	10 ml.
		Colonies	Colonies	Colonies
at 22°C. .. ..	..	—	—	10
at 37° C. .. ..	..	—	—	—
Probable number of coliærogenes present in 100 ml.	..	Nil.		

Chemistry.

Appearance in a 2 ft. tube—Clear and colourless.
pH. 6.8.

						Parts per	100,000
Free and Saline ammonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.0012
Albuminoid ammonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.0024
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 15 mins. at 27°C.	..						0.02
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C...							0.028
Total solids	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.9
Suspended matter	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Hardness—total	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.6
permanent	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.5
temporary	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.1
Chlorine present as chlorides	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.65
Heavy metals—copper	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
lead	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
iron	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
zinc ..	..	..	..	(approx)			0.04

Opinion Bacteriologically and chemically a satisfactory water

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS:
CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Beasts	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1124	624	696	5448	153
Number inspected	1124	624	696	5448	153
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	69	69	108	161	32
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	935	523	20	982	41
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- eases other than T.B. ..	89.32 %	94.87 %	18.39 %	20.98 %	47.71 %
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	25	37	3	Nil	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	103	112	Nil	Nil	4
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with T.B.	31.38 %	23.88 %	0.43 %	Nil	26.14 %

The following additional items were condemned by the Veterinary Officer during the year :—

(a) Meat in shops condemned :

1 leg of mutton — abscess
2½lbs. fillet of lamb — abscess
1 part hindquarter of beef — bruised and bone taint
1 part hindquarter of beef — malodour
1 part shoulder of beef — bone taint

(b) Imported meat condemned :

48 6lb. tins canned corned beef .. — decomposition
4 parts hindquarter of beef — bone taint
1 forequarter of mutton — abscess

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Smallpox :

There were fortunately no cases of this disease in the district and also there were no known contacts during the year, but a note of warning must be sounded in view of the repeal of the Vaccination Acts under the National Health Service Act, 1946 ; that neglect of vaccination or re-vaccination may result in an appalling epidemic in the future. Asiatic Smallpox is truly a very terrible and fatal disease in unvaccinated persons or where vaccination is remote in time.

Scarlet Fever :

There were only ten cases of this disease during 1948, and they were all mild. Nine cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Fairhill, Penrith, and routine disinfection was carried out at their homes. The disease was at no time epidemic in the area.

Diphtheria :

There were no cases of this disease notified in the Penrith areas during 1948, and in this connection a total of 24 school children and 219 pre-school age children completed a course of two injections with A.P.T. (Burroughs and Wellcome) during the year and 102 infant school children received ' booster,' or re-inforcing injections against diphtheria.

Diphtheria notifications during the last 15 years are as follows :—

Years	Diphtheria Cases	Deaths
1934	23	Nil
1935	32	2
1936	23	1
1937	19	Nil
1938	19	Nil
1939	10	Nil
1940	4	Nil
1941	1	Nil
1942	1	Nil
1943	2	1
1944	12	2
1945	2	Nil
1946	1	Nil
1947	1	Nil
1948	Nil	Nil

Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia :

Sixteen cases were notified with two deaths—a female aged 84 years and a male aged 65 years.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis :

Fortunately there were no cases of this disease in the Penrith Urban Area during 1948.

Measles :

During November, 1947, an epidemic of this disease broke out at the Council Infants' School which reached its peak in December 1947, and continued through January, 1948, finally dying out early in February 1948, except for isolated cases which occurred from time to time when the disease was endemic in Cumberland.

While the earlier cases were mild the disease tended to become more severe, in the later stages of the epidemic, and there was one death from this cause

Whooping Cough :

A few scattered cases occurred during the Spring and Summer months, but it became epidemic in the Autumn and Winter months.

There were 137 cases notified in 1948, the highest total for any year since notification became compulsory in 1939. In the year 1940 there were 109 cases which was another year with high local incidence.

There were no deaths from this cause in 1948.

The question of artificial immunisation against this disease is still sub judice, and the results of the experimental work at present being undertaken by the Medical Research Council are awaited with much interest.

The question of isolation of cases of Measles and Whooping Cough is one of very great difficulty. The main purpose of isolation is to protect contacts or possible contacts from infection, but in Measles and Whooping Cough the infectious stage is usually well advanced before a diagnosis is made, and very often a medical man is called in too late and the damage is done by cases before the public health department is aware of their existence.

In London preference is given to cases of Measles and Whooping Cough over Scarlet Fever for isolation in Fever Hospitals when the former diseases are prevalent. This is done because the death rate is much higher for Measles and Whooping Cough than for Scarlet Fever.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)

Diseases	AGES											Totals	Admitted to Isolation Hosp	Deaths
	-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45--	65-		
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	-	1	4	1	2	-	-	-	-	9	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	-	-	-	2	1	2	2	-	2	-	4	3	-	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bacillary Dysentery (Sonne)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	2	10	10	11	4	11	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	6	16	20	20	17	55	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
											Totals ..	220	10	3

CANCER.

Twenty six deaths were attributed to malignant disease giving a death rate of 2.47 per 1,000 of the population ; in the year 1947 there were 20 deaths and a rate of 2.05 per 1,000 population.

The details are as follows :

System :					Males	Females
Alimentary :						
Stomach	..	..	..	..	5	2
Colon	..	..	..	..	2	2
Rectum	..	..	..	..	1	—
Liver	..	..	..	..	1	—
Oesophageal	..	..	..	..	2	1
Fauces	..	..	..	..	1	—
Pancreas	..	..	..	..	—	1
Breast	..	..	..	..	—	2
Lung	..	..	..	..	4	—
Skin	..	..	..	..	—	1
Lymphadenoma	..	..	..	..	—	1
					—	—
Totals					16	10
					—	—

2	deaths occurred among persons between 37 and 50 years				
4	deaths	„	„	„	„ 51 and 60 years
13	„	„	„	„	„ 61 and 70 years
2	„	„	„	„	„ 71 and 75 years
5	„	„	„	„	„ 76 and over

Total number of deaths—26

76 per cent. of the deaths were over 60 years of age and 65 years was the average age at death.

TUBERCULOSIS CASES, 1948.

Ages		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
To	1 year	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1-5 ..	..	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
	5-15 ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	15-25 ..	..	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
	25-35 ..	..	—	1	1	1	1	—	—
	35-45 ..	..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	45-55 ..	..	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
	55-65 ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	65 and upwards	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..		2	4	2	1	3	1	1	—

NUMBER OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER, 1948

Males		Females		Total
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
21	7	21	8	57

No action has been necessary in respect of Tuberculosis among persons employed in the milk trade or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

The total number of cases on the register at 31st December, 1948, is 57 which compares with 54 at the corresponding period in 1947.

Three non-pulmonary cases arose, one in each of the months of August-September and October.

Five deaths were recorded from Tuberculosis giving a death rate of 0.46 per 1,000 of the population.

CAUSES OF DEATH AS GIVEN BY THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL.

	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory Tubercle	2	1	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Syphilitic diseases	1	—	1
Measles	1	—	1
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (males)	3	—	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	2	6
Cancer of Breast	—	3	3
Cancer of all other sites	9	5	14
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	6	9	15
Heart diseases	22	20	42
Other diseases of the Circulatory System	3	1	4
Bronchitis	2	2	4
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Other Respiratory diseases	—	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	—	3
Diarrhoea (under two years)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	2	2
Other Digestive diseases	1	3	4
Nephritis	1	2	3
Congenital Malformation, birth injury or infantile diseases	4	1	5
Suicide	1	—	1
Other violent causes	—	1	1
All other causes	4	6	10
	<hr/> 69	<hr/> 62	<hr/> 131

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect the year 1948
for the Urban District of Penrith in the County of Cumberland:

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1937.

Part I of the Act.

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	18	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	60	71	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	2	—	—
Total ..	76	91	7	—

2.—Cases in which Defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	F'nd	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	3	3	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ..	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	4	4	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	8	8	—	3	—

PENRITH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
PENRITH,
May, 1949.

Dr. F. W. GAVIN,
Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I submit for your consideration my report on the work carried out by this Department during the year 1948.

Milk Supply :

Routine visits have been made to all the milk producing farms in the district, and I have to report the following alterations :—

A new double byre has been erected at Carleton Hill Farm. The building is of modern construction and the cooling, washing and sterilising rooms at the side of the building are particularly efficient and up-to-date.

Reconstruction of existing byres and other buildings was carried out at Frenchfield and has resulted in the provision of a single byre and cooling and sterilising rooms of designated milk standard.

Improvement to byres at Balmers Farm was carried out during 1948, but milk production had not begun by the end of the year.

Small cowsheds were constructed at Bridge Lane Nurseries and North Bank, Eamont Bridge, and milk production is in progress at these premises.

The year has also seen some changes in the retail purveying of milk, and at the time of writing this report further changes have been made or are contemplated. During 1948, Mr. Noble acquired premises at Victoria Road, Southend Road corner, and these have been reconstructed to provide dairy premises consisting of washing and sterilising room and bottling room. The equipment is all modern and the premises are a very great improvement on his former dairy in Old London Road. Provision has also been made for the installation of modern ice-cream manufacturing plant in a room which complies with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Only three complaints regarding dairies were received during the year—two referring to milk and one to the dirty condition of a bottle. I am satisfied that there was no negligence on the part of the dairyman in any of the cases.

The number of cowkeepers, dairymen, etc., is as follows:

Number of Wholesale Purveyors of Milk	..	..	..	29
Number of above producing Designated Milk	..	..	..	10
Number of Retail Purveyors	..	..	..	7

Bacteriological Examination of Milk:

The following is the result of the milk samples taken during 1948, the standards still being the same as described in the 1946 report:

	Samples taken	Satisfactory	Failed	
			in 1 test	in 2 tests
T.T. Producers ..	23	14	9	--
Accredited Producers	3	3	—	—
Ungraded Producers	8	6	1	1
Retailers	25	13	8	4

There is a further improvement in the retailers' samples but the T.T. producers' samples are not quite so good as last year and are a great deal worse than the results in 1946.

It is gratifying to see that the number of producers of Designated Milk has increased, but the results of some of the milk samples are disturbing. Some of the milks supplied to our local retailers are consistently bad as far as bacteriological cleanliness is concerned and on three occasions last year samples were found to be T.B. positive. The chief offenders seem to be supplies outside my area with the result that I have no control over the milk at its place of production. Perhaps the fixing of the appointed day for the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, will remedy this state of affairs as the new organisation may not be so concerned with boundaries as we are in local government.

Milk in Schools :

The schools continue to be supplied with T.T. milk, and the results of milk samples taken at the schools during 1948 are as follows :

Satisfactory	Failed in 1 test	Failed in 2 tests
8	3	6

Almost all the unsatisfactory samples were in the early part of the year, and I am pleased to say that there was a marked improvement which appears to have been maintained into the present year.

Food Inspection :

Regular inspections are carried out at all premises where food is prepared for sale or is sold and in addition to the normal minor improvements to existing premises. I have to report that two new catering establishments opened during 1948, namely 5, Queen Street (Brown Jug), and Dayson's Cafe, in Castlegate.

A survey of Public Houses was made during 1948 with the object of checking on glass washing facilities and sanitary accommodation. Improvements have been carried out at a number of these premises, but there is still quite a lot requiring attention, particularly the question of the provision of sanitary accommodation for females.

Ice-cream :

There are now three manufacturers of ice-cream in Penrith with a further two making small quantities in the ' Winsor ' machine. The three larger manufacturers have all obtained new plant during 1948, and I am satisfied that they are prepared to co-operate fully in any way they can so that ice-cream shall be produced under ideal hygienic conditions.

During the year several premises have been approved for retailing ice-cream but applications still continue to come in. Approval is granted to applicants if I am satisfied that the premises are suitable, and if I am certain that the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act and the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations can be fully observed. It would appear, however, that it will soon be possible to purchase ice-cream in almost every other shop.

Condemned Food :

During 1948 the following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption, and was destroyed or otherwise disposed of, disposal for animal feeding being adopted in any suitable case.

1 tin Coffee	22 stones Herrings
65 tins Fish	3 „ Smoked Fillet
91 „ Fruit	2½ „ Golden Cutlet
98 „ Jam	14 lbs. Kippers
37 „ Meat	567 Fishcakes
177 „ Milk	34 small cartons Shrimps
6 „ Soup	66 lbs. S.R. Flour
3 „ Syrup	45 lbs. Barley
127 „ Vegetables	2 cwts. Sausage Rusk
2jars Beetroot	10 stones Granary Meal
21 „ Herring	56 lbs. Soyser
26 „ Jam	15 pkts. Shredded Wheat
1 „ Mincemeat	438 stones Turnips
4 „ Pickles	114 „ Greengages
37 lbs. Sausages	36 crates Lettuce
10 lbs. Black Pudding	55 lbs. Prunes
11 lbs. Ham	32 lbs. Dried Apricots
12½ lbs. Bacon	63 pkts. Dates
18 lbs. Cooking Fat	38 lbs. Coffee Beans
2½ lbs. Cheese	33½ lbs. Tea
10 lbs. Walnuts	55 Eggs
10 lbs. Assorted Toffee	59 small pkts. Pudding Mixture
144 Pies	1 bottle Black Currant Juice

Housing :

Routine inspection of dwellings and subsequent action under the Public Health and Housing Acts is still not normal although a great deal has been achieved in this direction. In Penrith the primary need is still the erection of new houses and, until that need is very much less acute, no serious drain on labour or materials for large scale action under the Housing Act can be contemplated.

The following are the details of the work done during 1948 :—
Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects

(under Public Health and Housing Acts)	312
Number of dwelling-houses (included above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	13
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notice under the Public Health Act was served	7
Number of above in which defects were remedied by owners	7
By Local Authority in default of owners	—
The following defects were dealt with informally :—	
Accumulation of rubbish	4
Animals improperly kept	1
Coalhouses provided	2
Conversion of trough closet to water closet	10
Dampness	15
Defective chimneys	8
„ doors	4
„ drainage	13
„ floors	7
„ firegrate	10
„ plaster	31
„ roofs	30
„ sinks	3
„ sink waste pipes	4
„ set pot boiler	1
„ spouting	13
„ water closets	24
„ water supply	5
„ windows	13
„ walls	1
Smoke nuisance	2
Verminous or dirty premises	10
Miscellaneous	4

Tents, Vans and Sheds :

The camping facilities in the district are still very inadequate, the only recognised camping site being at The Crones. On the whole the owner of this site adheres strictly to the agreed arrangements. No serious complaints have arisen during the year, and any minor complaints were dealt with immediately.

Shops Act :

The following defects were dealt with during the year :—

Defective water closets repaired	4
Water closets cleansed	1
Washing facilities improved	3

Disinfection and Disinfestation :

During the year disinfection was carried out as follows :—

After removal to hospital of cases of Infectious Disease (including Tuberculosis), or terminal disinfection	17
After deaths from infectious or other diseases	5
Presence of vermin	6

Rodent Control :

In addition to the routine treatments of the Refuse Tip and the sewers, seven properties were treated for minor infestations.

Such rodent control organisation as we possess does not function too efficiently, and I am sure that much more could be done. The only employee who has had any training is a plumber's labourer and this does not seem to me to be the best possible arrangement. I offer for your consideration the following suggestion ; I suggest that there be employed on the working staff a sanitary employee on whose service the Health Department would have first call. This employee would be available for rodent treatments, disinfection, disinfestation drain testing and the like and when not fully employed on this type of work he would always be available as a general labourer.

General :

I have always regretted that the Cumberland County Council Act, 1948, did not include powers to take action against dog owners who permit their dogs to foul the footpaths. This particularly obnoxious form of nuisance seems to be widespread, and in some parts of the town walking on the footpath, especially in the dark, is a hazardous and unpleasant business. If only offending dogs had been a little more carefully trained I am quite sure that this cause for complaint would not have existed.

This, my first report as Sanitary Inspector and Meat Inspector, is also, I regret to say, my last, as I leave local government service at the end of June. Although I have only held the appointment for six months I have tried to carry out my duties conscientiously and without fear or favour.

As this was a new appointment a certain amount of organisation was necessary and I have not yet succeeded in getting the Department to run as smoothly as I would like. In addition some of the duties of the office may not have been carried out as thoroughly as they ought to have been, but if the spade work I have done makes it easier for my successor to go right ahead, and if I have brought even a little credit to a profession whose aim is the safeguarding of the public health, I shall not be dissatisfied.

I offer my thanks and appreciation to you for your co-operation and encouragement throughout my period of employment with Penrith Urban District Council.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
J. R. MILLER,
Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

